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OUR VOICE



Technology

Nov. 2003

Artwork: Eric Uhlich

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**NOVEMBER 2003
VOL. 10 NO. 11**

Our Voice invites your contri-
butions and input.

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THE WORD

Too Cool for Food

Have you ever seen the robots
used in industry? Ones built to
put-together computer equip-
ment, automotive equipment
or just about anything that is too com-
plex for human hands to do quickly or
too tiny and intricate for humans to do
at all. They look nothing like humans.
In sci-fi movies and TV, robots look like
slow-moving metallic people with no
emotions or comically-simple ones. Why
is this?

Probably because we see ourselves at
the top of the food chain in every con-
ceivable way and cannot comprehend
something with artificial intelligence not
being made as some approximation of
us. We see technology as our "Get out of
jail free" card. If the ice-caps melt, the
rainforests are finally paved-over com-
pletely and our drinking water is no
longer drinkable water, we'll just sit back
and let science and developing technolo-
gies take care of our problems.

New technologies may save us yet,
but we are leaving our fate in the hands
of people whose goal is to create tech-
nologies that will pay off for investors.
Unless world governments become the
new vanguard of life-improving tech-
nologies, monies will continue to funnel
in "cool-toy" development (fighter jets
and tanks costing billions) instead of
supporting the less-sexy notion of feed-
ing, housing and giving medicine to the
world's population.

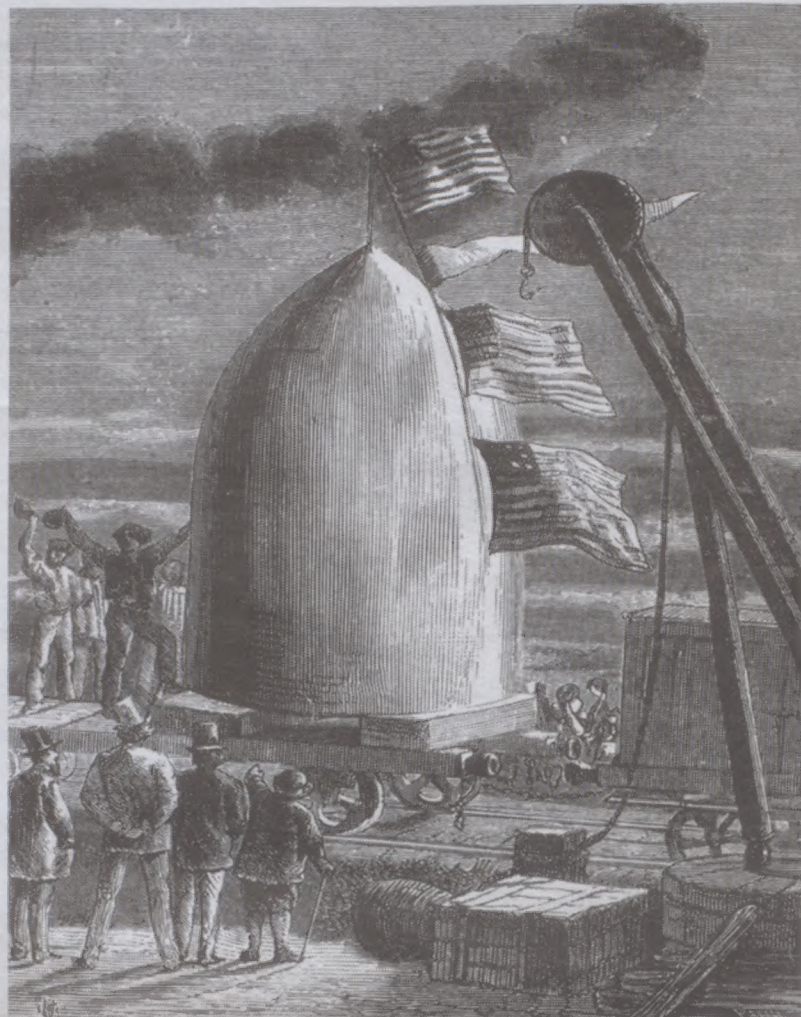
NASA is situated in an interesting
spot in this discussion. NASA absorbs
trillions of dollars to develop and build
extremely cool toys, then shoot them
into space. Many countries use the shut-
tles and space station for scientific exper-
iments. The results of one such experi-
ment may make the trillions in expendi-

ture seem worthwhile one day. However,
my instincts tell me that bringing sci-
ences not connected with space explo-
ration into the equation is a smoke-
screen created to legitimize a massive
waste of money. Priorities are way out of
whack here. China receives US\$1.8
Billion in aid each year (mostly from
Japan) and has many pockets of
extreme poverty, yet they still managed
to continue their space program and
launched the Shenzhou 5 rocket in
October/03 with plans for an unmanned
trip to the moon by 2008. This will likely
push India into similar space program
development.

When millions of people have been
treated for AIDS, when far fewer people
are left to starve and live outdoors and
when the myriad of other social, envi-
ronmental and political problems have
been dealt with, then we can talk about
bringing science fiction to life. Until
then, keep your money at home and
shoot your problems into space, not the
other way around.

When research money is given to
fight AIDS, cancer, leukemia and so on,
how much progress do we really expect?
Drug companies are soldiers of fortune
as much as any company building
weaponry. Industries have been built
around all of our ills. Maintenance of
disease is much more attractive and
offers better financial returns than find-
ing a cure. The UN estimates 25 million
people will die of AIDS in Africa in just
the next few years. A solution must be
found, but is a cure right around the cor-
ner? Being able to resoundingly shout:
"Yes!" would be great, but I am less
hopeful than I would like to be.

What has been successfully cured
since Polio 50 years ago? Nothing.
Leprosy still exists in many parts of the
world as well as many other diseases we
think of as living only in the distant
past. A huge percentage of the world's
population suffers from environmental
sensitivities. Kids have far more allergies
to more and more things than they used



to, and people still think that new tech-
nologies will throw us a line? Didn't they
promise us too much and make us com-
placent in the first place?

Technology is not a bad thing, it can
make our lives easier, longer and better
in a lot of ways. The problem is that a
company or government needs to have a
large research & development budget to
advance new technologies and they
attain these funds from financiers who
want to make a profit, not to "save the
world." This is understandable in a lot of
ways, but is also dreadfully short-sight-
ed. We, as a society, can focus our efforts

and pay to fix our societal ills now, or we
can wait until the problems of poverty
and homelessness get too advanced to
fix.

Helping the world's poor may have
devastating effects on the size and bud-
gets of certain military powers who would
no longer "save" peoples of the world
from tin-pot dictators, but it also creates
new markets to sell-to and buy-from. In
the end, everyone's interests can be
served if we think about everyone's bot-
tom line.

-Warren Bjarnason

USUAL SUSPECTS:

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Monthly Horoscope

< Nov. features >

Book of Days: This Month in History

November 5

Lady Bessborough to Lord Granville, 1804.

We have been witnessing today a strong example of the spirit of contradiction. The crier has been employed all morning in forbidding bonfires, on pain of great penalties, especially on the heights, lest they should be mistaken for signals of invasion; and if nothing had been said they would probably have burnt Guy Fawkes in the market place very quietly, but, in consequence of this, every cliff round Hastings is in a blaze, and especially ours, with a faggot on the top of a long pole so like the signal for the French, that I should not wonder if the whole coast was in alarm and the people under arms from here to Dover. The pleasure of doing what is forbidden does not therefore belong exclusively to women.

November 10

King George III to Lord Shelburne, 1782.

Knavery seems to be so much the striking feature of its [America's] inhabitants that it may not in the end be an evil that they will become aliens to this kingdom.

November 11

George Beardmore, Journal, 1938.

Following the assassination of a German diplomat in Paris, said to be by a Jew, the most appalling general pogrom broke out at 2 a.m. this morning all over Germany [Kristallnacht]. Jewish shops in Berlin were looted and set on fire while the police looked on. Jews were forced to jump from second-storey windows, and to crawl on their knees for a mile or two. An old man was beaten along the street while a thirteen-year-old girl tried to protect him, screaming at the mob. The news is that Jews have been lynched, forced to resign their property, and sent to concentration camps. It's a new St Bartholomew's Day Massacre.

November 25

Raymond Asquith to Lady Diana Cooper, from the Western Front, 1915.

Out here one's outlook on life, military life I mean, changes very rapidly - every now and then moments of excitement and almost of happiness even in the trenches, occasionally a moment almost of ecstasy when one marches in late at night after a week of dirt and bullets and finds a feather bed and a bottle of the Boy awaiting one; then horrible reactions of boredom and nausea as one's mind collapses under the pressure of prospect and retrospect and the monotony of a great desert of discomfort and danger with no visible horizon. But usually one is very equable, looking no further ahead than the next meal and feeling that really life is very much the same everywhere, war or no war.

'The Boy' was Bollinger champagne, so called from Edward VII's habit when shooting of always having a few bottles to hand, on ice in a wheelbarrow. When thirsty he shouted 'Boy' to summon the youth in charge of it.

WORD **W**

WORD: Faculty of speech; locution, talk, parlance, verbal intercourse, prolation [archaic], oral communication, word of mouth, parole, palaver, prattle.

ROGET'S THESAURUS

Edmonton Street News:

Starting November 15th, 2003 look for a new venue to read about news from Edmonton's inner city: the *Edmonton Street News*.

Available on a street corner near you.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is not an image of the world but a way of operating on reality. The nihilism of technology lies not only in the fact that it is the most perfect expression of the will to power ... but also in the fact that it lacks meaning.

- Octavio Paz

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V VERDICT

Decision, determination, finding, **verdict**, sentence, decree; opinion (belief); good judgment (wisdom)

ROGET'S THESAURUS



Cruelty would be delicious if one could only find some sort of cruelty that didn't really hurt.

- George Bernard Shaw

THE VERDICT

On Film *Intolerable Cruelty*

Part of Part of our Canadian cultural identity has been pulled out of the CBC mothballs: the "Hinterland Who's Who" television spot. If you're 30-something, you'll remember the flutey notes, followed by a rich, sober, slightly stern male voice describing one of our fauna while it chomps and roams with majestic indifference. Imagine "Hinterland's Who's Who — The Gold Digger: The gold digger can be found in lobbies and on poolsides of the world's most expensive hotels. She moves with calculated languor at exclusive cultural events and on yacht decks; it is important for her survival to cultivate always an air of entitlement. She is impeccably groomed whenever out-of-doors. Her hair is flowing, thick and shiny. She has long, muscular limbs, a large firm bosom and glossy skin, mostly exposed. She is seldom sighted out of 4-inch heels and demonstrates a partiality to diamonds and clothing with labels. Her dietary patterns are not fixed, she grazes on what is offered and is partial to expensive champagne. She is a predator, always on the alert for a male of great material holdings. As the gold digger's appearance plays a large part in capturing this mate, she will undergo many surgical procedures during maturity to maintain the appearance of youth".

Catherine Zeta-Jones plays gold digger Marilyn Rexroth in the movie *Intolerable Cruelty* and she is a peach among peaches. Her skin seems honey-kissed, it has a tawny, burnished radiance, she moves in an aura of gold dust. Gold is the color that clings to her, like powder from fairyland—she's digging for it and she's a trophy. What makes Marilyn Rexroth somehow less despicable than her



vacuous poolside comrades is her unshakable self-respect in spite of her self-awareness. While her bleach-blond friends are obsessively diverted with shopping, settlements and cosmetic surgery, she seems a "townsman of a stiller town", above their parasitic charmlessness and slightly amused by her station. She doesn't take the game of "love 'em and leech 'em" personally, only wittily, and this makes for one ironic and graceful guttersnipe. Top divorce attorney Miles Massey (George Clooney) is lead to state in helpless ardor: "I'm fascinated by that creature".

Miles meets Marilyn in the white-collar gladiator ring of modern, big-money divorce court. He is defending her philandering husband who's been caught on camera in flagrante philando (he never actually made delicto) and succeeds in nullifying any alimony obligations. As coolly infuriated as she is with Miles closing down her gold mine, Ms. Rexroth is not out of his life for long. She

actually seeks his legal counsel for her next marriage. Miles is the writer of *The Massey Pre-Nup*, the most rock-solid, untouchable pre-nuptial agreement ever written. Marilyn wants to ensure her new fiancé, big daddy oil bucks Howard D. Doyle (Billy Bob Thornton), that her love is real and the surest way to do that is to sign a Massey pre-nup. When Miles sees that she's about to get hitched again, no doubt lovelessly, he confesses his feelings of adoration and this knocks the story into full gear down its fateful, torturous and surprising path.

George Clooney is having as much fun here, under the direction of Joel Coen, as he did in *O Brother, Where Art Thou*. Don't get too excited about a new offering from the Coen brothers though; it only has patches of true, um, Coenism as they only helped with the screenplay and receive no credit for the story. Their previous film, *The Man Who Wasn't There*, was tumescent with epiphany and existential burdens; I can't remember

the last time I rewound a movie and played back scenes so much. Even though it's a beautiful work of art, it didn't do well at the box office. Perhaps a romantic comedy and collaborative effort is a desire to put some Coen-lite out there.

What about the on-screen chemistry between Zeta-Jones and Clooney? Actually, it's virtually nil; their best chemistry is with themselves. Because Clooney is having so much fun in a comedy role and the divine Ms. Z is uncoiling some gooey, Marilyn-esque kundalini, they're like two bell jars of scintillating charisma, side by side but never touching. It's unfortunate but not lethal to the film's overall end product; they're both such a treat to watch (as are the other peripheral characters) it can be absorbed in the overall fun. If moolah be the fuel of love, pay on!

- Keyna Laurence

THE VERDICT

On Music Speechless & Beepuncher

Hey kids, do you know what time it is? Yep, you betcha' it's tune time.

This month I'm reviewing two CDs instead of one for the simple fact that as different as these albums and artists are, they're both good examples of what independent albums should sound like and what artists should aspire to be. In a word... original.

We'll start with Kristopher Brooks' release of his album *Speechless*. An instrumental album as the name denotes, it was a pleasure to listen to repeatedly. Not an album for the hardcore punk/speed metal enthusiast, its crisp, well-crafted guitar playing and sweet and subtle production values lends to a well-rounded listening experience. As instrumental guitar CD's go, I would compare it to a nice mellow port after a good meal. Not much on adrenaline but who wants to have their hair on fire all the time.

Kristopher lives and teaches right here in E-town and for the last fifteen years has been one-half of the duo *Runaway Train* picking up the lead vocal/guitarist labor with the tasty precision that his fan base loves and

appreciates. If you want to find out how you can get a copy of *Speechless* or the time and place of *Runaway Trains'* next performance don't hesitate to contact Kris at: krisrunawaytrain@yahoo.ca.

The next album we're lookin' at is the CD *Beepuncher* by The Dudes. I seen these guys playing at the Likwid Lounge as I exercised my beer drinkin' arm and thought you know for a bunch of dudes from Calgary they rock, grabbed a copy of their e.p. and here we are. *Beepuncher* as well as The Dudes live show isn't freakin' rocket science.

It's fun.

No %&@! I said fun. The lyrics are about chicks, the guitars are distorted, bass and drums are tight and tasty, the vocals have their own unique flavour and when combined produces an energy you can only have when you're young. If you want dark and brooding with Shakespearian depth you've come to the wrong place they left the violins at home. If I was going to visualize anything while listening to *Beepuncher* it would be: beer, more beer and college students.

Nuff said.

If you want dates or info on how to get your hands on *Beepuncher* drop a line to The Dudes at Believeinrock@hotmail.com.

- Bruce (@#*&%!!)Fox



VERDICT

V

Your **verdict** will be "Guilty" or "Not Guilty." Your job is not to find innocence.

RUSSELL R LEGGETT



Urban Exposure

IMAGES FROM THE PERIPHERY OUR VOICE 2004 CALENDAR

OUR VOICE CALENDAR

Urban Exposure

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THE RHUBARB

Industrial Revolution

Part II

R RHUBARB

I want a dish to taste good, rather than to have been seethed in pig's milk and served wrapped in a **rhubarb** leaf with grated thistle root.

KINGSLEY AMIS



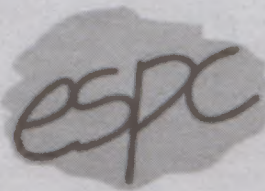
In 1800, 2% of the world's population was urbanized; by 2008, more than half of the people in the world will live in urban areas.

In developing countries, people are coming in record numbers to get jobs in rapidly growing urban areas. A new report put out by UN Habitat entitled: "The Challenge of Slums," estimates that nearly a billion people of the world's population lived in slums in 2001 and forecasts that number will double by 2030.

Arbitrary evictions are commonplace in many of these countries, this serves nothing but the escalation of more homelessness and setting an even lower standard of what liveable housing looks like. People that move to urban centres to find work are not going to leave their jobs because they generally send money back to their hometowns and villages.

Developing countries cannot afford to build decent housing to accommodate the flood of new workers, but how do we rationalize the living conditions of people we walk past everyday? Canada can afford to do better for everyone that lives here.

- Warren Bjarnason



debate

WELFARE: A Basic Human Right or A Temporary Support Between Jobs?

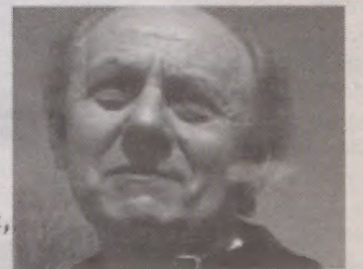
BE IT RESOLVED

that welfare
(once again)
be considered
a social right
for those
in need

FOR:

Rick Salutin

op-ed columnist,
Globe and Mail;
award-winning
playwright, novelist,
media lecturer



AGAINST:

Lorne Gunter

senior columnist,
Edmonton Journal;
member, editorial
board, National Post

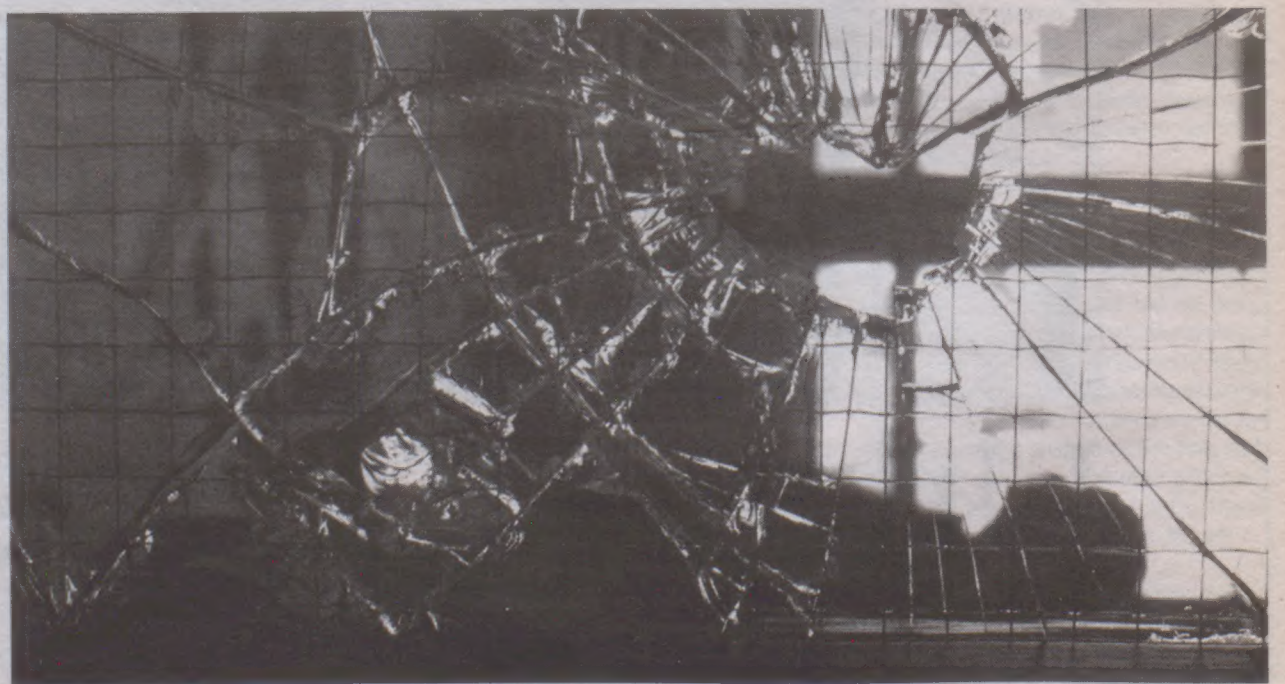


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THE RHUBARB



Starving Artist?

An anonymous soul once stated: "You just can't beat the classics." This has never been more true than in the art of stage magic. Sure, modern magicians will dress it up with new angles, pyrotechnics or skittish albino tigers but the idea for their "miracles" generally go back hundreds if not thousands of years.

Severing then reattaching limbs, levitation, luminosity, mind-reading and bi-location are all part of the ancient repertoires of saints and holy people the world over. Is it any wonder that when today's self-styled conjurers look for a new act to bring fame and fortune they would fall back on this rich and wonderful historical tapestry? No matter how far society evolves it seems we are still awed by "classics." Or perhaps the original inspirations for such feats still resound inside our souls.

On September 6 of this year, David Blaine entered a clear plastic box suspended over the Thames river near Tower Bridge. His self stated illusion was that he would go 44 days with out food, only water. Blaine said it would be one of his most ultimate feats of endurance, "pushing myself as far as I can go." were his exact words. By the time this article sees print he will be released from his self-imprisonment, on October 20, collect his pay check and plan his next trick. I could not have cared less.

Then the media started reporting on Mr. Blaine's illusion and I got angry. Not with the guys who threw eggs at him, sent toy helicopter delivered cheeseburgers to him or, my personal favourite; driving golf balls off Tower Bridge at him; That was amusing and Blaine as a performer should have expected it. I was angry with the media and how they reported it.

The media—newspapers, radio, television and the meme-driven internet—missed everything. Like a true magician David Blaine had diverted their attention to what

was really happening. IT'S A TRICK YOU MORONS! The guy is a magician. I doubt he is in any high level of danger. Then again maybe I am wrong. Perhaps Mr. Blaine really is risking both physical and mental health by starving himself in public view. Yeah, and maybe I got an autographed picture of Jesus in my wallet.

I have a hard time believing the media to a man is falling for this. The tip-off to it being a trick are as follows:

1. This is a variation of both Catholic Saint and Indian Fakir "miracles."
2. This is being done without any scientific or laboratory controls.
3. Mr. Blaine, through his merchandising sales and promotion of Britain's Channel 4 is raking in the bucks.
4. No other magicians are bothering to speak to the press about how such a feat could be faked.

The last point is very telling. Either the media is truly being taken in or the interviews with doctors and dieticians giving updates on Blaine's supposed condition are being aired because the Amazing (James) Randi is on prolonged vacation. The guy is a magician folks, who fools people for a living.

The miracle of going without sustenance is a very old Catholic miracle and has helped more than one holy soul receive their saint hood. To the Vatican this miracle is known as inedia. This supposedly fulfills Jesus' promise to the faithful as outlined in John 6:53-58.

Take St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) for example. Besides practicing flagellation, thinking herself tortured by demons, and experiencing holy visions, including an invisible ring placed on her finger by Jesus

himself (!), Catherine was also an inedia and for a very short time a stigmatic. Modern scholars view her life as that of a vainglorious mentally-ill individual. The church also collected "donations" from pilgrims who would come to kiss her hand.

When fed anything more than the Eucharist, she would vomit uncontrollably. She lived like this for thirteen years until her death at the age of thirty-three, lingering for three months racked with the hallucinations from dehydration and protein loss from her brain. If this sounds like anorexia I agree and so does Professor Rudolph M. Bell in his book "Holy Anorexia". Still the condition was considered a "miracle" and her sainthood was assured.

As recently as 1927, Therese Neumann of Bavaria added inedia to the "miracles" that occurred in her life. After suffering a bad fall in 1918, Therese was healed by "God's will" of blindness, paralysis, and other ailments. Stigmata followed (but only when she was left alone) and soon inedia was added to the list. A local bishop, suspicious of Therese's stocky build asked for round the clock surveillance of this miracle worker. For fifteen days Therese had her urine examined and weight monitored. When her weight and urine returned back to normal levels shortly after this, the bishop in a classic church understatement proclaimed "we should not take Miss Neumann's claims too close to our hearts."

More recently, Alfonsina Cottini in northern Italy fooled believers and local villagers for ten years, taking in donations from modern pilgrims. When investigated by a special commission it was discovered that Ms. Cottini was slipping out of her bed at night and chowing down, relieving her body wastes before undoubtedly returning to bed after a quick bank deposit.

Now, let's look at the Eastern religions. Hindu holy man, Satya Sai Baba, the self-styled "Man of Miracles" gained world

wide attention back in 1965 by being buried alive without food, water or air and emerging a month later, fit as a fiddle. His major detractor and fellow countryman, admitted stage magician B. Premanand, as not only duplicated Sai Baba's "miracles" but dug up tunnels Sai Baba had previously dug next to his location of internment. Since then Sai Baba only performed within the 'safety' of his own ashram surrounded by his 5,000 religious devotees.

In 1992 Kapil Adwait, a former air force pilot known popularly as "Pilot Baba", claimed to have "mastered the art of surviving in conditions akin to that of the womb." Adwait placed himself in a sealed tank of water covered by a tarp for four days surrounded by several thousand followers chanting hymns. Good old "Pilot Baba" quickly threw doubt on his alleged miracle when the tarp was rolled back and instead of discoursing on Hindu spiritualism, announced his run as a political candidate for prime minister.

David Blaine, as we can see from all this, is not really doing anything new. Worse, he is not even being observed with the level of investigation that most of these "holy individuals" were. I find this most revealing as to the evidence of "some kind of trick."

I myself, while suffering a bout of post traumatic stress, went four weeks without food except for one sandwich and a bowl of soup. Sleeping no more than four hours a night and burning off nearly forty pounds (I went from 155 lbs down to 120 lbs) my body began consuming its own protein. This included that great reserve of protein, my own brain. My doctors now feel that this may have contributed to my subsequent diagnosis of schizophrenia by damaging certain chemical receptors. I do not believe for a minute that David Blaine would knowingly risk acquiring this most horrifying of illnesses.

As I stated earlier there are no laboratory conditions placed on any part of Mr. Blaine's latest illusion. No doctors are monitoring his weight or examining his urine. No dietician is checking his water supply for saline/protein supplements, which when given to coma patients intravenously can keep them alive for months.

The only real danger he could be in is boredom and those rascally Londoners have certainly kept that from happening. He even gets his porno fixes from young lasses attempting to draw him out by flashing their breasts. I wish I had been so lucky during my bout with starvation!

This trick isn't really all that different from other Blaine "magic," like his live burial in New York's Times Square or his (and I feel more impressive) suspension in a block of ice for sixty-five hours. He claims he gained forty pounds before entering his plexi-glass box but he still looks a little stocky and his muscle tissue looks pretty good.

One quick "google" of Mr. Blaine and the ads for his books, videos, T-shirts and posters show a strong marketing plan. No doubt his latest illusion and free publicity acquired from it are fuelling sales. Not that I have any real idea how he's doing it.

Then again I don't know how to saw a lady in half or levitate like David Copperfield either.

All I can be sure of is that until David Blaine wishes to replicate this feat under proper supervision I have to call bull caca on this latest stunt. At least until the Amazing Randi comes back from vacation and vouches for him.

-Dave Dutton-Fraser

RHUBARB R

RHUBARB: A discussion, often heated, in which a difference of opinion is expressed:

Altercation, argument, bicker, clash, contention, controversy, debate, difficulty, disagreement, dispute, fight, polemic, quarrel, run-in, spat, squabble, tiff.

ROGET'S THESAURUS

THE RHUBARB

HOMELESS BEATEN AGAIN IN SEQUEL

R RHUBARB

What **rhubarb**, senna, or
what purgative drug
Would scour these English
hence?

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

In front of a camera, they beat each other for food, beer, and money. One bloodied homeless man pummels his foe into a public toilet. Another homeless man tears out his teeth with pliers and rocks. Others allow teenagers to urinate on them and scrub them with a mop, while tied to a tree.

Nothing could stop four filmmakers from featuring these degrading and blatantly exploitive sequences into their latest project released this month; "Bumfights 2: Bumlife," not even four misdemeanor convictions, seven felony charges, three civil lawsuits, and condemnation on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Already banned in some countries, many will consider this sequel just as alarming as its predecessor.

The original, "Bumfights: A Cause for Concern," was released in the summer of 2002. It too is interwoven with "ruckus" of high school kids, and shows a man setting his hair on fire; a man who smokes crack and defecates on the sidewalk; and a segment of a man tying, gagging, and marking sleeping homeless men. Billed as the star is "Rufus the Stunt Bum," who voluntarily rams his head into fast-food restaurant signs and breaks his best friends leg in a dangerous brawl.

When the controversy started, its burden was of little concern to the now millionaires of the "fastest selling independent movie of all time" according to co-producers and Las Vegas natives Ray Laticia and Ty Beeson.

Sales were steady until famed "news" radio host Howard Stern exulted the movie as "Jackass to the extreme . . . I'm shocked and I'm not shocked by much. You gotta see this." Attention then spread like brushfire to nearly every major national media station and paper, and within a week it had gained international attention as people in Europe and the Middle East started placing in orders over the net at www.bumfights.com. Sales rose sharply to 300,000 copies of the \$19.99 videotape in a few weeks, along with other merchandise including thousands of "Rufus the Stunt Bum" sweaters.

The legal course turned out to be more of an annoyance to the filmmakers than any sort of barrier, and maybe not even that considering the extended media coverage it gained from the eight-month process. As the case disintegrated each step of the way; charges dropped and downgraded, the four filmmakers ended up sentenced to a three-year probation, \$500 fine, and 250 hours of community service for the homeless. I wonder if the two would consider this sequel viable hours. I pity the social worker that gets stuck with these two.

So over the hurdles with the first trial, the filmmakers will unlikely face another; fully aware that activist watchdogs and media will be looking for any possible slip-up to prey on. All of this leading to the ultimate conclusion; that though maybe in bad taste, there is nothing illegal about this sort of filming, or use of people who suffer from mental disorders, drug addictions, alco-



holism, or just down and out bad luck. So what now?

People like myself may now even participate in this profiteering. Though the site said explicitly "No Bum Footage," If I had learned one thing it was that these kids never really mean what they say. I recently emailed the producers explaining to them that I dressed up like a cop, tackled sleeping homeless people, tied them up and gagged them, kicked them a few times, and then painted them. I, of course, insured them that I paid each \$5 and got them to sign release forms, after the attacks that is. In the same day I received their response: "Sounds great. Send it in. By the way, show love to the bums. We love the bums."

Some say that kids can't separate reality with fiction and in-turn has fueled youth violence. But this video isn't fiction. Kids get the idea that this

harassment is ok, older teens realize they probably won't get caught, and twenty year olds concoct projects in which they too can make money off of similar exploitations. Like the producers of a new video in Canada, with a flashy website like bumfights.com called "Crazy Pricks." This video includes scenes of twenty year olds driving around in their SUV asking homeless men for directions, punching them, and then driving away laughing hysterically.

So it is no surprise that two most recent cases that occurred last August involved camcorders. In Chicago, four teenagers videotaped themselves beating up and urinating on homeless people. In Cleveland, teenagers videotaped themselves shocking homeless men in their genitals with stun guns. "I've never seen anything like it in 18 years, except on TV," said Sgt. Ray Burner, whose seen

the tapes of the Cleveland incident. "Did you ever see the movie 'Jackass?' Well, that's essentially what we're talking about."

So what began as two kids goofing around trying to make some money has turned into a loose-knit terrorist network of pranksters. Leaving the risky work to kids getting paid anywhere from \$10-100 for footage. This al-quiédanesque strategy makes it impossible for any real investigations to swell, with crimes spread across a vast geography. Leaving us to only wonder: How deep does this run?

The answer is not an easy one. Homeless people don't have a cell phone to call 911, many are not considered reasonable witnesses because they suffer from alcoholism or mental illness, police don't specifically track hate crimes against those experiencing homelessness, and all the while municipalities across the country are passing anti-vagrancy/homeless laws pushing the most vulnerable population into the shadows and isolated situations. In the case of the original "Bumfights," no investigation was ever sought until a nurse had realized that Rufus Hannah and his friend had been admitted to the hospital several times during filming. In the end, homeless people are usually hopeless of justice or protection.

The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) released a four year study (1999-2002) on hate crimes and violence committed against the homeless and noticed an alarming trend in abuses. This report can be found on www.nationalhomeless.org. In many cases, young people—in some cases, packs of them—were responsible for the attacks. In the past four years 212 hate crimes and violent acts have been reported. Of the 212 attacks, non-homeless attackers have killed 123 homeless people. The oldest seventy four years old; the youngest four months old, homeless people have been pelted with paint balls, beheaded, set on fire, clubbed with 2 by 4s, doused with lye, stabbed, and other varieties of execution; indiscriminate and vicious solely because these people have no home.

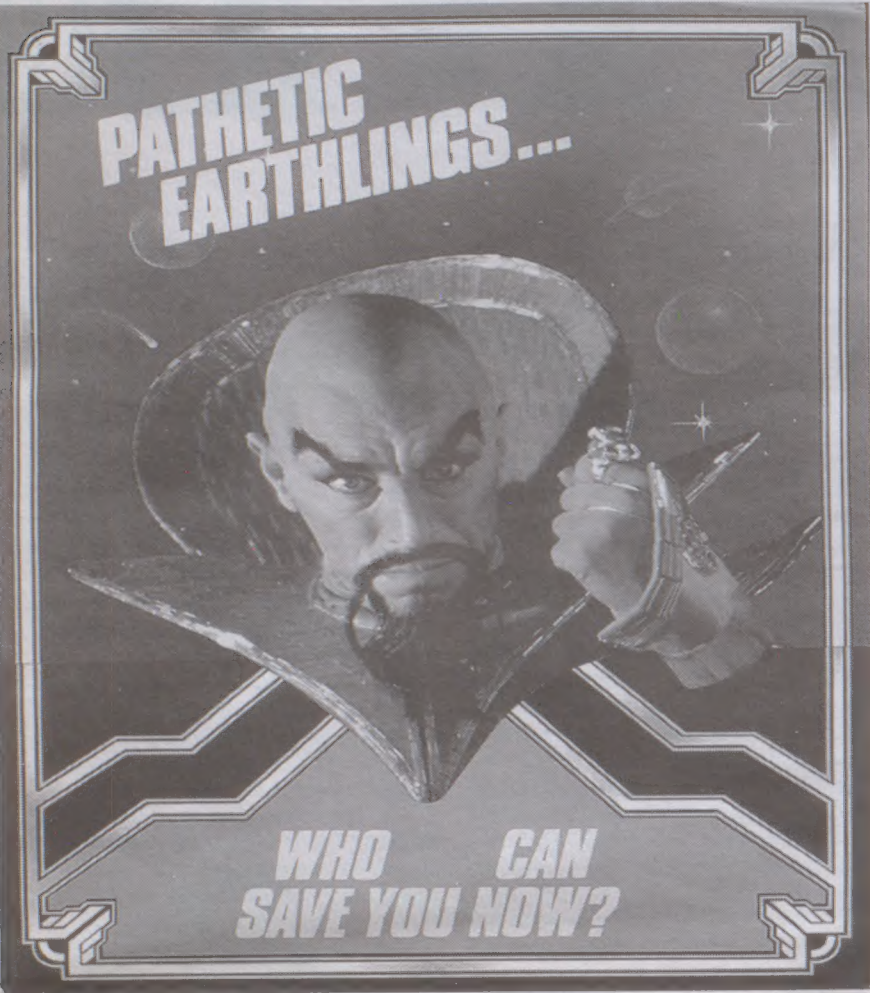
In response to this serious trend, long-awaited sequel, and the start-ups of look-alike production companies, the NCH along with over 400 other organizations are requesting a U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation into the scope and extent of violent acts against homeless people. As of now, no one really knows how far this problem reaches into our culture. But in a country where such lucrative abusive business is legal, I often wonder what Howard Stern finds so shocking.

- Christopher Herring

For the full report on how the film was made, legal proceedings, and press reports visit: www.nationalhomeless.org

Chris Herring is a 19-year old Civil Rights Intern at the National Coalition for the Homeless and can be reached at: cherring@nationalhomeless.org

SCUTTLEBUTT



Mail Theft:

A thief may steal physical mail directly from the incoming of outgoing mailbox. The thief will be looking for credit card statements or payments which have the necessary information to obtain credit in the person's name. The "pre-approved credit card" offers are particularly popular the thief will automatically obtain credit and start using it without the victim ever finding out until their credit is ruined. Another approach is dumpster diving. The thief will search trash for the necessary information. This includes searching through the victim's own trash at home, as well as searching the trash at businesses. Businesses need to be concerned that any/all personal information be shredded before being put in the trash. Consumers must likewise be concerned; personal shredders are inexpensive.

The Insider:

An employee of a company/agency that deals with personal information might take advantage of the situation. A famous case dealt with an employee of the U.S. Social Security Administration that used their computer access to steal somebody's SSN. Another form of identity theft is through pickpockets and purse snatchers. Not only will they be able to use the credit cards, wallets/purses often contain more personal information that can be used to obtain credit.

The Internet:

It is unlikely that anyone will sniff your credit card information from the wire. However, e-commerce websites are regularly hacked and credit card numbers are frequently stolen. change of address. Identity thieves may file a change of address form in order to divert your mail to their address.

Here are some tips to prevent identity theft: Lock away your Social Security card, birth certificate, passport, and any other piece of information that can be used to prove who you are. Always shred receipts, and always take credit card and ATM receipts back home to be shredded. Shred all mail. Review credit card and phone bills. Review your credit reports every couple of years. Never give out your Social Security Number unless required (it isn't required for health insurance, but it is required for anything related to income). Do not list your telephone number in the phone book. Make a list of all accounts (savings, credit, etc.).

The thief can then take your identity and sell it on the black market. There is a huge market in Mexico and Russia for new identity. In fact, you can go to Russia and see CDs laid out on a table which have databases and credit information on them.

Zombies:

No, not "Night of the living Dead" zombies. Zombies are computers that have been taken over through various hacking means to do a task on a certain day. So by having zombie computers do mass functions like

mailing or pinging a network they can shut it down.

But the CIA and FBI have countermeasures like hiring hackers of their own called Security Specialists. Having entire departments set up to combat cyber terrorism or to generate it in defense. Also having computer watch dogs set-up to monitor networks for keywords like terrorism. This is not unjustified however.

Hackers, not foreign nations, have been the source of computer attacks. Last year there were a staggering 413 hacker attacks that broke into U.S. military networks. That record makes experts wonder how the Pentagon will defend itself against more sophisticated attacks from hostile foes.

Despite the \$1.6 billion the Pentagon spent on computer defenses last year, the General Accounting Office blasted the DOD for having networks "beset by vulnerabilities."

The Pentagon, however, has been fully aware for the last several years that its computers are vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

In 1997, it held an exercise in which teams from the National Security Agency used hacker programs to break into nine city power grids and 911 emergency systems and 36 Pentagon computer networks all at once. Systems administrators were able to detect just two of the military attacks, he added.

In 1998, more than 500 Pentagon computer systems were compromised in a series of attacks codenamed "Solar Sunrise." The attacks were first thought to have originated in the United Arab Emirates but were later found to have been the work of a couple of California high school students and their 18-year-old Israeli mentor.

For the last couple of years, a group of Russian hackers have been invading hundreds of Pentagon and other government computer networks and stealing thousands of unclassified technical files. Moscow denies involvement, and the identity of the hackers is unknown.

The Pentagon recognized that any of those attacks could have come from a foreign government. In response the DOD has put together the Joint Task Force for Computer Network Operations to coordinate defensive and offensive information warfare programs.

Because other countries are jumping into the field of computers as weapons. China is expanding cyber related military training and is already incorporating cyber warfare into military exercises, according to press reporting. Chinese President Jiang Zemin stated last year that wars were passing from the stage of "mechanized warfare" to that of "information warfare." China has set up what is known in computer circles as the red firewall of China. You are going to see the war won like parts of World War II, not by noble robots dying on the frontlines, but by the stealth of those behind the scenes who steal and launder money for covert operations, change identity of operatives on the fly, and shut-down dams and hospitals by the use of computers. If a computer asks you to play a nice game of chess maybe you should back away and pick up a nice tic-tac-toe game instead.

- Philip Jagger

Wars of the future

We expect the wars of the future to be a battle zone of robotic soldiers fighting with suped-up laser weapons, a flashback of Robocop meets Terminator movies. How about if you think father back and remember Tron and War Games. That is more than likely what the new warfare will be about. Cyber terrorism is the new buzzword for those people who will be behind computers taking-out defense systems, not through missile and Star Wars systems, but by their skills at hacking.

The hackers can take many forms. One is the membership of the organization making the attacks on the Country or members of a friendly organization making the attacks. The other is hackers for hire who apply their skills to the highest bidder. The third type is thrill-seekers who just do the hacking for the notoriety.

In order to appreciate the seriousness of cyber terrorism, it is important to discuss what cyber terrorists can do by examining incidents that have occurred in the past. Most of the following incidents cannot be classified as cyber terrorist acts because most were not done to further any political or social goals. However, these incidents demonstrate what a cyber terrorist could do with the proper training.

In 1988, a man named Robert Morris

released a computer worm that infected between three and four thousand of the Internet's approximately 60,000 servers. In 1989, a hacker group known as the "Legion of Doom" took over the BellSouth telephone system. The group tapped phone lines, re-routed calls, and posed as technicians on the phone. In 1994, a hacker known as Merc dialed into a server at the Salt River Project and searched their computer's network which was used to monitor the water levels of canals in the Phoenix region. In 1996, a hacker with ties to a white supremacist movement took out a Massachusetts internet service provider and damaged part of its record keeping system. The hacker was trying to send out worldwide hate and racist messages under the ISP's name. The hacker signed off with the message, "you have yet to see true electronic terrorism. This is a promise."

It is speculated that the recent power outage in the states may have been caused by a w2 blaster worm. But the most common form of cyber terrorism is identity theft. By hacking into government records a cyber terrorist can retrieve the most mundane information. However once all the info is pieced together you can steal someone's identity.

Here are the ways someone can steal personal information:

SCUTTLEBUTT S

SCUTTLEBUTT: blab, gossip, noise, rumor, talk, tattle, whisper

ROGET'S THESAURUS

SCUTTLE

S SCUTTLEBUTT

A drinking fountain on a ship; A cask on a ship used to hold the day's supply of drinking water.

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY



The Art of War

As we saw bombs erase an entire country in full Technicolour, we wondered: what next? What does the future hold for the act and art of war. Hold on...Art ??? Yes, warfare is and has been considered an art form since it began or since the act of telling about the victories and spoils around the campfire was invented. Because of that, some of the most creative minds have been applied to the technology of war.

Look at Leonardo da Vinci, inventor of the tank ballista and countless other gadgets of war

(despite the fact he encoded his work so it wouldn't fall into the wrong hands.) Tesla broke the blueprints to his work in half and gave parts to the Russians, Japanese and Americans so no one would have the advantage. But warfare is all about the advantage and psychology to put your enemy at unease, so when you strike it can be fast and deadly and with as little casualties as possible. One way is to deploy a revolutionary and secretive weapon that is designed to spare human beings but destroy computers and telecommunications equipment. Variations of the device (which works by sending intense bursts of energy through anything electronic) have undergone advanced field testing by the U.S. military in recent years, and many experts believe the United States now has the capability to use it in combat.

It is not only the US that is making weapons of terror. It has recently transpired that Russian scientists are working on the so-called plasma weapon. Russian Academic, Avramenko says that the plasma weapon will be capable of

repulsing air and even space attacks. The controllable bunch of power created with the help of powerful ground lasers can destroy any aircraft and any missile when it approaches a defended area.

It is a horrible weapon, although it has several disadvantages too. Ground generators can be easily detected and then destroyed. Probably, people will use autonomous and solar weapons in the future. The solar weapon was used already in the third century B.C. when Greek mathematician Archimedes burnt the Roman fleet with the help of mirrors and the sun. Unfortunately, such weapons stop working in bad weather. However, mirrors can be taken to space to avoid the weather problem.

The temperature in the center of the focused solar current can reach thousands of degrees. Such a powerful ray can reach the ground from space through a thick layer of clouds. This weapon will be capable of melting and burning any target. However, this weapon has a rather big disadvantage: it destroys everything on a large area around the target, like an A-bomb.

A winner does not need the burnt barren land. A neutron bomb is a lot better in this respect, because it kills every living being, but non-living objects remain intact. Yet, there is no use of a town if there are no people there. Genetic poison will probably be used in the future as the most optimal variant to destroy a part of the population, even a specific part. Each ethnicity in the human race has an individual genetic code. Genetic differences may lay the ground of the genetic weapon. It will be possible to create genetic viruses to exterminate certain groups of people on the planet.

Another weapon is the Bio-electronical weapon. Professor G. Bogdanov patented the generator to fight termites. The generator's radiation kills insects paralyzing their nervous system. One shall assume, a certain frequency of the appliance can kill people too.

Weather has been a classic factor in all battle from the War of the Roses to World War II. But if you were able to control the weather that would be a significant factor in achieving victory. That is why the Russians have also developed the Meteorological weapon. It is possible to make specified weather on a specified territory changing the electric charge of the air. Hard rains, droughts and blizzards can cause very serious damage to the enemy. It is known that Russian scientists were working in the field of meteorological war in the city of Obninsk.

Gravity is another factor that is being used in the weapons of the future. In April, within 15 minutes of receiving a report that Saddam Hussein had entered a restaurant in Baghdad, a B-1B bomber dropped four 2,000-pound satellite-guided bombs on the place.

It now appears Saddam slipped out of the building by a secret exit. But if one space-based

weapon now being researched had been orbiting above Iraq – and had worked as envisioned – Saddam almost certainly wouldn't have got away.

Colloquially called "Rods from God," this weapon would consist of orbiting platforms stocked with tungsten rods perhaps 20 feet long and one foot in diameter that could be satellite-guided to targets anywhere on Earth within minutes. Accurate within about 25 feet, they would strike at speeds upwards of 12,000 feet per second, enough to destroy even hardened bunkers several stories underground.

No explosives would be needed. The speed and weight of the rods would lend them all the force they need.

The United States are also in the process of non-lethal weaponry for crowd control. The Marines, who are charged with guarding US embassies overseas, are planning to use a slippery slime to deal with hostile crowds.

The Corps hired scientists at San Antonio's Southwest Research Institute to develop a spray that makes asphalt, concrete, grass and wood as slippery as ice. The Marines expect to have the product ready for use in 2003.

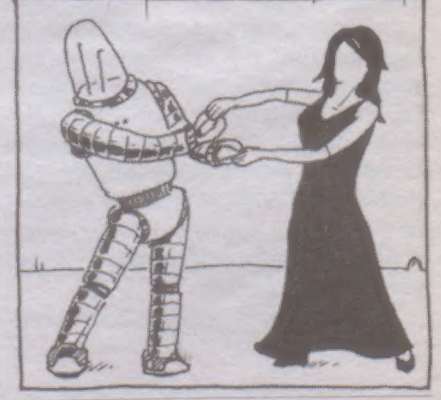
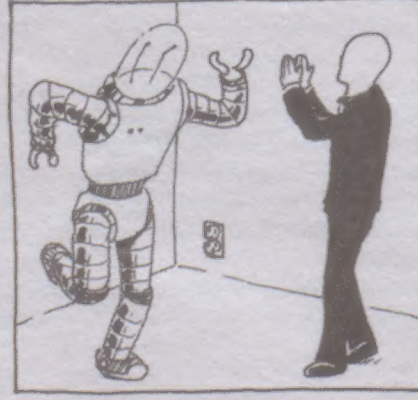
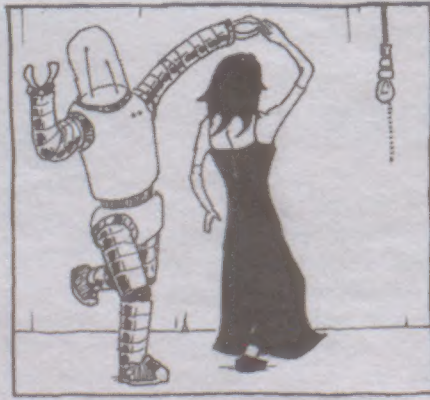
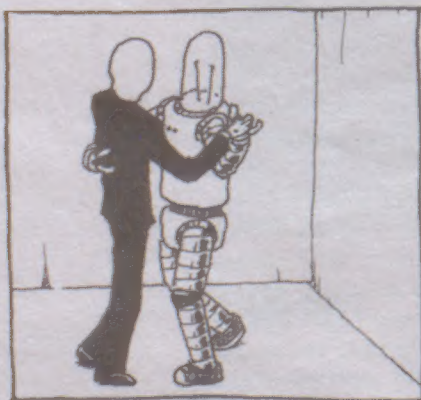
The Pentagon spent \$US 40 million over 10 years to develop a long-range weapon that inflicts pain without causing lasting harm. The weapon, which could be fielded by 2009, fires a beam of electromagnetic waves that reaches pain receptors just under the skin. "It kind of feels like putting your hand on a light bulb," said Turner, who has tried it out.

In San Diego, American Technology is developing a portable metre-long tube capable of firing a burst of noise as high as 140 decibels. Sound becomes painful above 120 decibels – the noise of a jet at takeoff. At such levels, sound can be felt as well as heard. "It gives you the equivalent of an instant migraine headache," said Elwood Norris, the company's chief executive. "It's just totally disabling."

The Defence Department contacted American Technology about the device after the September 11 attacks, Norris said. The company is now working with Bath Iron Works, a division of General Dynamics, to develop a working model for the Pentagon. The company's new, thin spin-speaker technology, called hypersonic sound, has also drawn attention from the Army for possible use in psychological warfare. The speakers can project sound like a ventriloquist throwing his voice.

But I think the best weapon in the future is ourselves. We need to challenge the priorities of our governments and communities in building weapons rather than building hospitals. We should change weather to repair the damages we are doing and strive towards healing those wounds and walls that generate conflict.

- Philip Jagger



IEBUTT



so much has changed since then. If people are interested in what he has to say, but they don't know about his teachings—that's okay."

Meditations, spiritual teachings and general information regarding Tibetan Buddhism have long been associated with the Dalai Lama's celebrity status. In fact, he has authored more than 50 books and his audiotapes have been translated in almost a dozen languages. However, it was becoming increasingly clear that presenting His Holiness as a spiritual commodity was helping to clarify his message, and more importantly, launching his popularity as a



pacifist with power. Vreeland commented on the phenomena by asking, "what's so wrong about that? It makes information interesting to everyday lay people."

Before the Dalai Lama spoke to a mass audience gathered in Central Park, Vreeland solemnly meditated in the VIP section of the grounds reserved for hardcore Buddhist practitioners. He was usually stressed and had every reason to be, but was a spiritual leader. He had worked so hard to attract those who were not Buddhist, and he was overwhelmed about Tibetan Buddhism succeeded. Tens of thousands of people showed up hours before the event and now sat, softly chanting for his Holiness to come on stage. Yet, Vreeland remained calm and focused on meditation, even though the area he was sitting in was sprinkled with celebrities.

Organizers joked the area Vreeland occupied was the perfect site for New York's stars, since the Dalai Lama regularly spoke about how to transform habitual selfish tendencies into compassion and selfless love. Uma Thurman, who's known for occasionally practicing Buddhist meditation, brought her chil-

dren to the two-hour lecture, whereas Montreal-born actress Caroline Rhea said she was lured in by the Dalai Lama's star power.

"[I'm here] to be in presence of His Holiness, of course!" laughed Rhea, a stand-up comedian and recent host of the defunct Rosie O'Donnell Show. "You can't expect an event like this to be empty especially when it's free—especially when it's the Dalai Lama."

Dale Thistle, who drove down from Boston for the event, said he was "interested in [the Dalai Lama's] story about giving up everything and simplifying life." Thistle recently downgraded his lifestyle from a high-paying job and lavish home to working as a part-time construction worker in order to "start enjoying life." He nodded his head in agreement when the Dalai Lama told those who were stressed out to stop looking for happiness in external luxuries and focus instead on developing a daily balance between work and pleasure.

The younger generation was equally curious about Tibetan Buddhism. Seventeen-year-old David Lower clapped vehemently when the Dalai Lama spoke against the recent war in Iraq. "The very concept of war is outdated," said His Holiness. "Destruction of your neighbor is essentially destruction of yourself... War is part of human history [but] war is like legalized violence."

Lower said the lecture was well worth a five-hour wait, adding that he would do it again. He noted the highlight of the talk was when the Dalai Lama applauded North Americans for becoming more spiritual-minded since Sept. 11. After the 9/11 attacks, the Dalai Lama's message was washed over New York, Detroit and Ottawa during the recent blackouts.

The Dalai Lama's U.S. tour officially ended in New York on Sept. 23, after stops in San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and Boston. At the time of his departure, his books were once again climbing the best sellers' lists. He also continued to advocate non-violence as a means of resolving conflicts and disputes through regular updates on his website at www.dalailama.com—information that's easily accessible to everyone and only a mouse click away.

—Neil Parmar

SCUTTLEBUTT

S

Like the shipboard water barrel—the scuttlebutt was a social meeting place and the center of gossip and news. In the modern world, the scuttlebutt is figurative, the latest news. In the literal sense is Standard, and in its figurative sense is a but Formal and Oratorical.

KENNETH G. WILSON

Tao of Gere

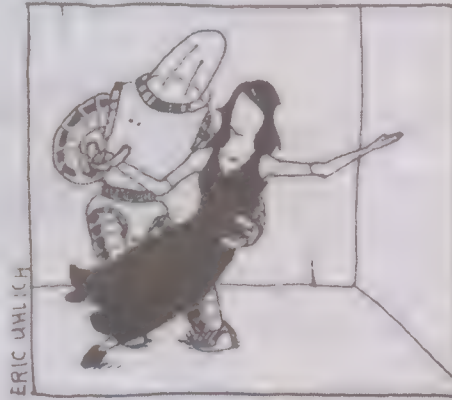
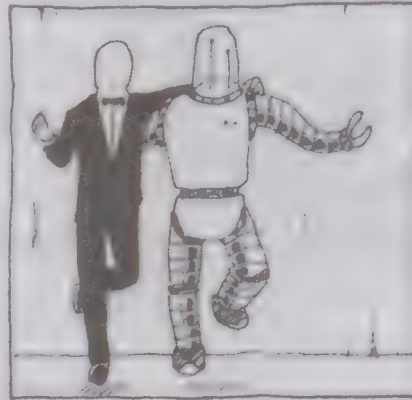
Filed up over 20 blocks just to hear his voice. A multi-story billboard hung in Times Square advertising his arrival. Even if hard Gere was asked to introduce him to over 65,000 people crowded within New York City's Central Park late in September.

So which celebrity warranted such attention? His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The days leading up to his free public lecture operated more like the preparations for a citywide rock concert than the welcoming of one of today's most

well-respected spiritual leaders. In addition to his pictures being plastered around subway stations, read-up concerts, films and panel discussions were held to hype up his arrival. All of this media hoopla was for one purpose, and one purpose only: to make the Dalai Lama and his informational caravan available to anyone and everyone.

"We wished to make His Holiness' teachings accessible to everyone. That's why we invited him," said Venerable Nicholas Vreeland, the director of New York's Tibet Center, which helped sponsor the event. "He came years ago, but



SCUTTLEBUTT

S SCUTTLEBUTT

SCUTTLEBUTT: To engage in or spread gossip: blab, gossip, noise, rumor, talk, tattle, whisper.

ROGET'S THESAURUS



Our Voice vendors are now equipped with stylish *Our Voice* T-shirts.

Dress to impress with **Our Voice**.



Jonesing for the Net

I must admit that I love technology. I like coffee at the flick of a switch; I like to warm my food automatically and use remote-controlled tv's and computers that are loaded with everything. I like instant access to the world wide web and to be able to e-mail free, anyone with a computer, everywhere. The measure of my love for technology, or how I know that I not just need technology but that I crave technology to the point of addiction, is that when I don't have access to it, I'm cranky. Big time cranky. I do not camp well. It is not just having to make fire and wait with my butt perched painfully on some decaying plant matter for potted water, the final resting place of unnameable fauna that are endemic to the place of camping, to boil. But that I am cut off, alone, unconnected from the 'world' that I know.

I must admit that I hate technology. I hate the cars that stream constantly on the road outside my front window; the vision punctuated by subsonic vibrations from sound systems, misplaced from stadiums to vehicles, that make the walls vibrate. I hate the disconnection that technology demands—my neighbours, just across that four-lane impassable river outside my home, are strangers to me. I hate the concentration of media driven by a technological superiority and a concentrated advertising revenue base that tells me and you what to consider to be important as news and how to think about it, a big voice that drowns out all others not so glitzy, not so 'perfect'. I hate the technology that demands that both mothers and fathers work to make a living for a family, not just the financial necessities of our modern world but the embedded socially-poisonous invective that child rearing has a lesser value than career. Technology, I love it and I hate it.

I spent the Thanksgiving weekend in Ucluelet, a small community on the edge of the Pacific, visiting family. The ocean is raw there, crashing waves born in Asian winds on the rocks and howling to the shore in tightly curled breakers that spin the wind to sounds deep, relentless, and throb to a forest a millennium old. Further from the ocean, the gigantic trees hang with luminous green mosses and gather hordes of mushrooms about their bases. No ocean sounds are here, just birds and quiet voices, no technologically noisy intrusions, just voices all equal, back-dropped by the deafening silence of the forest. It was beautiful there and just a bit terrifying. Part of the beauty was because I could leave it all, close the door, turn on the computer, tap into the net and be human again, not just a passing intrusion into Nature. And terrifying because anything of man or woman would not only be destroyed by

wind and water and growing things, but that all life and all the technological creations of living things are seen there as starkly transitory, momentary gleamings.

While we walked such places of magic, Mozilla was downloading into My Precious, my computer as I have named her, both to acknowledge my love of the technology and the measure of how much I am bound by it. Mozilla is a freeware internet explorer system that is in direct competition to Microsoft. If you haven't tried it, do so. It is far superior to anything else available. But make sure you have a computer geek close at hand. I am no geek. My own efforts in that regard didn't crash my machine, simply resulted in constant error messages that popped up continually. Because of that, I had no internet, no access to my writing programs or to my research. The angst was outstanding. I even missed contributing to the last issue. (Just in case you were wondering the piece was, I am sure, brilliant.) Once loaded and debugged, I took her out for a run on the net. I smiled and was happy again, and decided to eat the small mushroom that my wife had found for me in the depths of the forest. She said it was a magic mushroom but I am sure it was just a shitake.

Technology has wonderful applications, but each embraced application excludes. The exclusions are severe in some cases. Ivan Illich has extensively explored the exclusions of technology by an example from his own life and one that seems appropriate in light of my recent journey to Ucluelet. In 1926, the first loudspeaker came to the island of his family home. Prior to that, silence was a common wellspring from which each person had an equal voice. After, the commonality of the silence was destroyed by the domination of the loudspeaker. If you did not have a loudspeaker, your voice was excluded. Further, all roadways used to be places where children would play, people would walk, vendors set up stalls with items for sale and villagers commingle with regard that the roadway was a common area, accessible to all. Now, if I try to cross the street, I will be killed or more probably arrested. The roadway is no longer a commons, but a community resource. As Ivan Illich says, "Commons can exist without police, but resources cannot."

The technology that enables my beloved web surfing excludes those without computers and/or internet access. The technology that has brought about the rise of great cities has excluded those who live here and now without a home, without medical attention, and without the education and training to care for themselves successfully in the world. Technology allows the biggest voice to drown out those whom we need to listen to: the disadvantaged, the dispossessed, the equal members of our society who desperately need to be heard. And yet, technology allows us the means to help them.

Technology, I love and I hate it.

- James Lauder

SUBVERSES

THE GLOBAL SYNAPSE

As I walk along the grass
I focus and feel gravity
Pull me, holding me close.
My heels are blue as they
Leave each disappearing print.
Winds course through me as mountains
Wire my feet deep into a global synapse.
Concrete skins mask the primordial
Scents and pulses that steady the
Rhythm of my heartbeat.
I lay my head down to listen for
Rumbling voices and wait for direction.

- Warren Bjarnason

I HAVE TO RUN AND MAKE MYSELF A PILE OF MONEY

If I had a pile of money, I'd put on a happy face. I'd let bygones be bygones.

I'd let everyone have their place, with all of that money, I simply wouldn't have to worry about the human race.

Who'd care about the world's problems that would always have to be solved. I could sleep in every morning and know I'd have it all. The worries of arguing in the morning, with the special woman I truly admire, would disappear immediately from my thoughts. I wouldn't have to worry. I'd give her all this money. I'd buy her off with perfume, fancy clothes and a big luxurious car. So she could drive around and be the best by far.

I wouldn't have to worry about what people would say behind my back, cause with those expensive clothes, and the brand names that I'd be showing, would make people think twice. I'd have them eating out of my pocket saying, "You earned your place with the human race, I was wrong about you from the start. I'll be your friend, till the end, could you please lend me some money?"

And with the status that I'd hold, I'd turn around and tell them, "Here, have a dollar, buy yourself a cup of coffee. I've got to run because, I have to make myself a pile of money."

-John Zapantis

LOSSES AND GAINS

To all my ancestors and predecessors, I love and miss you all, my heart aches to be with you once again.

As long as I remain strong, I guess I never really lost you, as long as my heart aches to be with you, in some way. I know and believe you are with me in my heart, mind, body, spirit and soul forever.

Although, I feel lost, lonely and hurt with the loss of your presence, I have gained strength in love, spirit and soul.

Though it seems I'm wandering aimlessly down this path, far I know where it may not lead, I have gained wisdom and knowledge.

When we lose something in our lives and hearts, there is a gain of something else to help us through whatever it is that pains us.

Remember our losses equal our gains, that is my opinion and my belief, whether you agree or disagree.

To all my relations,

- Glenn Naziel

SEVEN YEARS

Seven years have passed and I still ask why?
I talk to you and get no reply.
My Grandmother, my best friend.
I'm still in denial, your life had to end.
It was the two of us, now just me.
Walking up freely lost and lonely.
I have so many questions with no answers too.
Since the day you left me, I'm still missing you.
Getting my life back on track.
I'd give everything up to have you back.
From time to time I feel you near.
It's just your voice I want to hear.
In my heart you will forever be spreading
Your wings flying free.

With All My Love,

Timmy Tremblay

SUBVERSES

Intended or serving to **subvert**, especially intended to overthrow or undermine an established government:

"Sex and creativity are often seen by dictators as subversive activities"

ERICA JONG

HEAVEN TO HELL

Here I am once again locked
away in a prison cell.
Praying to go to Heaven but slowly
walking to hell
I want to change where do I start?
Every time I've moved on I've fallen apart.
It comes to a point a giving up hope.
Because of crime and dope.
It seems I've searched High 'n' Low
And no where to go.
There must be more to life than this
Because drugs and crime has taken my smile.
I try to reach out and stand up tall, but my
Habits make me small.
How can I try with nowhere to go.
I have no turns left.
All that remains is death.

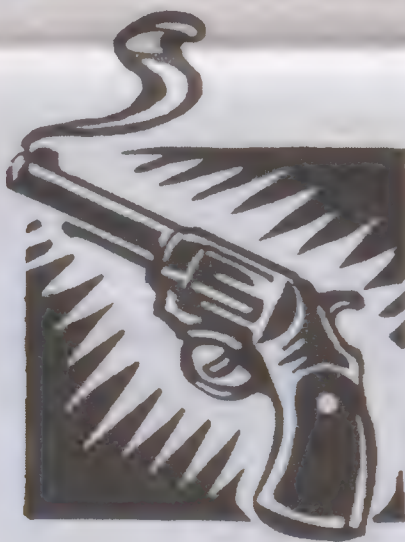
- Timmy Tremblay

FIBRE, FACTS & FALLACIES

R RHUBARB

I see now our fireside formed into a groupe, no one member of which has a **fibre** in their composition which can ever produce any jarring or jealousies among us. No irregular passions, no dangerous bias, which may render problematical the future fortunes and happiness of our descendants.

THOMAS JEFFERSON



One Shot Meal

Inexpensive meals that can be made in one pot or pan

Scalloped Potatoes

Ingredients:

4-5 Potatoes
Cream
Cheese
Crumbled Bacon
Green Onions

- Cut 4-5 large potatoes in half and then into very thin slices. Place in a greased three-inch-deep roasting pan (the tinfoil ones are fine) making sure that slices are separated. You can use potatoes that have already been cooked if you like, but if the potatoes are sliced very thinly, it is not essential. This works equally well with a mixture of sweet potatoes, yams, parsnips or just about any root vegetable or squash. If you don't have cream or very much cheese, but have milk, just sauté some onions in butter and add the milk when they

start to soften. Allow it to thicken on medium heat for about ten minutes.

- In a bowl, mix sliced green onion; cooked, crumbled bacon or ham; two cups of half & half; one cup of cottage cheese or ricotta; and a cup of tasty cheese like smoked-gouda, havarti, reggiano parmigiano, romano etc. You can add red pepper, hot peppers, thinly sliced leeks or almost anything to this mixture.

- Pour the mixture over the potato slices and mix them around to make sure everything is coated. Cook covered on 350° for about an hour or until the potatoes feel soft and the cheese mixture is no longer liquidy. Remove the cover and put back in the oven to brown the top. Breadcrumbs can be added at this point for a crunchy effect or more cheese can be sprinkled on top for a more gooey effect. Both have their merits.

- Warren Bjarnason

Our Vice

ZZZ Saver 3.0



You're getting sleepy...sleepy...very, very sleepy. Yep! Even the Bears are eyeballin' their internal chronometers and mulling over whether to go and eat another hiker or hit the sack and you're putting night vision goggles into your kids' lunch so they can find their way to school in the morning.

Ya know, I may be rambling on but, it seems like yesterday when I was writing about barbeque, summer and ice cold beer and poof it's gone like the red jelly beans in your ol' Aunt Bertha's candy bowl leaving only a thin layer of orange and brown barely covering (shudder) the white ones that have been in the bowl since Diefenbaker was Prime Minister.

The point is, this freakin' place gets dark way too fast and stays dark way too long. How in the smeg does anything stay green around here? Does the government sub-contract to hydroponic pot growers to run around with portable grow lamps to ensure that by spring the plants will actually sprout?

Seriously folks, I'm amazed Northern Alberta isn't one of the hottest vacation spots for vampires and it's probably one of the few places on the planet where you can get a ticket for not having your lights on at 7:00 in the morning.

Not to mention the nasty things it does to the human body.

Your body likes light.

It says to your body, "Body, get yer butt out of bed". When it fades it says, "Put yer butt in bed, Body."

Pretty simple, right? You'd think but, noooooo not this time of the year. It's like Mother Nature turns into a penny pinching Mr. Sandman who uses this time of the year to turn us into sleep deprived gibbering idiots that have all the manual and mental dexterity of a heroin-addicted Holstein cow with attention deficit disorder.

That's me baby, moo-oo-hoo!

I'm so sleep deprived my internal clock popped a spring and is now counting down like a dollar store pipe bomb. This time of year confuses the living feces out of me and the dead of winter is even worse. What is it? Like six to seven months or days that are shorter than an army of circus midgets? My sleep patterns get so backwards and erratic that I make... ooohh lets call them small time discrepancies.

I tell ya there's nothing like showing up at Mickey-D's for breakfast and find out you're about twelve hours late for breakfast. Or going to work and wondering why the sun isn't in your eyes and when you get there wonder where in the @#*&%!! everyone is.

I love sleep.

I need sleep!

It's nature's screen saver.

The world is so much more tolerable when I get some but, she's not gonna nail me in the punkin' is she?

I mean man what did I do to Mother Nature to get her goat? Sure I don't send her cards or love letters but, cockroach on a chicken crisp I've got enough distractions in this neighborhood to keep me awake.

Between the Fire department and the cop shop just up the street doing a bang up bit of business, helicopters chasing convenience store robbers, johns cruising the neighborhood looking fer love, remand guards changing shifts, bar patrons howlin' at the moon and neighbors smuggling livestock into their rooms you'd figure she'd cut me a bit o' slack.

I swear she's got it in for me.

Or maybe it's just the paranoia from sleep deprivation setting in.

- Bruce (@#*&%!!) Fox

FIBRE, FACTS & FALLACIES

Enforced Savings Plan for the Homeless

Let's get right down to brass tacks. Or is it the frozen balls on a brass monkey? Government minister in charge of housing Stan Woloshyn, bless his much repaired heart, wants to charge the homeless to stay in shelters. The kind and portly Stan tells us he's worried about how the poor are going to fare in the coming cold weather. Wonders if they won't be freezing to death in the streets.

But how, you may ask, could charging them a fee encourage them to seek shelter and avoid freezing in alleyways or under bridges? Silly you. Actually, it's simple. Most of the money will be returned to these impoverished folks when they leave. That way, they'll have, say, a damage deposit and a month's rent to put down on an apartment. Voila!

Obviously, the subtext here, which Stan doesn't want to say out loud, is that Alberta's wage slaves and those on welfare or AISH payments in fact have the money, but are wasting it while dossing down for free in the shelters.

Stan is taking a miss on talking about things like Alberta's pathetic welfare system and paltry minimum wage. Love ya, Stan.

The solution is to force them to save, to spend that money we give them for housing on housing. (Because we all know what they're really spending the money on, don't we?) It's for their own good.

While the poor are busy packing away their rent money, or having it packed away for

them, to turn over to the slum landlords or the shelters - as good capitalists, we do want them to have this choice, of course - Stan is taking a miss on talking about things like Alberta's pathetic welfare system and paltry minimum wage. Love ya, Stan.

Meanwhile, over at the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Alberta director John Carpay talks about Stan's wonderful plan as ideal for teaching the poor about "accountability". They need to learn, says, Mr. Carpay, "that things in life are not free"; that is, apart from the privileged Mr. Carpay's worthless advice.

Thus does Mr. Carpay, too, take a miss. He avoids consideration of any sense of accountability the privileged might feel towards the victims created by the economic system that has made them so wealthy. Anything, including the marginalized freezing to death in the back alleys, to avoid paying the taxes that a decent minimum wage and adequate welfare payments and might entail. He can always count on an enthusiastic audience for his drivel in

good old Alberta.

Finally, on the subject of taxes, Denni Windrim of Hinton tell us, "Considering that Mr. Woloshyn pays more in income tax than many poor earn in a year...I believe his suggestion is not only inappropriate, but cruel." Now, I'd like to suggest an amendment to that quote. I'm about willing to bet it would be more accurate if it read, "Considering that Mr. Woloshyn should pay more in income tax than the poor make in a year..."

Dear Denni, you and I pay taxes in fair measure, but rarely the rich and the servants of same like Mr. Woloshyn. They're a tad too smart for that, and they have the money to get the best advice from the very best tax consultants. Actually, that advice is probably free in the case of Mr. Woloshyn if he knows how to cash in on the perks of his office, and most of the Tory MLA's in the Alberta government surely do.

-Fabian Jennings

FANTASTICAL

F

Nothing can be more delicate without being **fantastical**, nothing more firm and based in nature and sentiment, than the courtship and mutual carriage of the sexes.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

ECOHH News Release

Recent comments by Stan Woloshyn, the Alberta minister responsible for housing, demonstrate a disturbing lack of understanding of housing problems, and for the dignity and well-being of people struggling with poverty, says Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness's Communications Chair Jim Gurnett.

"Woloshyn's comments feed a dangerous misunderstanding that those who use emergency shelters are irresponsible, free-loaders or worse. The minister is engaging in blaming the victim talk in what he says."

Gurnett takes issue with several aspects of Woloshyn's proposals to have people pay for staying in emergency shelters.

"People who are working at low-paying jobs or receiving income support benefits such as welfare are staying in homeless shelters because rents have risen to a place where a large number of people can't afford to rent their own place while government support levels remain unchanged. Instead of this ill-conceived proposal why doesn't the minister show some leadership in getting welfare rates and the minimum wage increased? Or lobby for income support programs to provide security deposits for people? Or unfreeze the rent supplements program?" Gurnett asks.

Gurnett criticizes the implications of

Woloshyn's proposal that people needing shelters are less capable than other Albertans and need someone to look after them.

"For this government to pay a single person on welfare \$300 a month and then suggest they should be paying for the chance to sleep on a mat in a dormitory shows how out of touch they are with the realities of poverty in Alberta. Does the minister think that people enjoy this life?"

"It is startling to hear the minister say he doesn't have a good understanding of the use of shelters. This information is readily available and has been used in Edmonton with the annual counts of homeless people and in the development of the community plan that clearly describes exactly how many and what type of housing is needed."

A count in Edmonton a year ago found 1915 homeless people on an average night, more than 250 of them children less than 15 years old.

Government withdrawal from spending on social housing is the main reason for the current crisis in Alberta according to ECOHH. Currently, the Alberta government spends an insignificant \$3 million a year on new initiatives regarding homelessness.

"The minister laments the disappearance of rooming houses. But politicians have happily supported the demolition of housing without investing money in the construction of low-cost good quality facilities to replace what is lost."

Gurnett charges it would be much better for the Minister of Housing to be fighting hard to get adequate government investment in all aspects of housing, from emergency shelters to long-term

low-income rental units, as well as supported facilities for those with special needs.

ECOHH is an Edmonton organization that engages in advocacy, education and practical activity related to housing security. Its membership includes a wide range of not-for-profit groups that deal with housing issues in many ways.

For further comment please contact Jim Gurnett at 424-7709.

Alberta Beatnik helps OV vendors

With the CD release party of his latest CD (simply entitled *Best*), Edmonton performance poet and musician The Alberta Beatnik - best known for the Tuesday night poetry readings at Whyte Avenue's Backroom Vodka Bar - is hoping to be "a better citizen." During the release party (Thursday, Nov. 13th, 7:30 p.m. at Audrey's Books downtown), \$2.00 from the sale of each CD will go to the Bissell Centre, to help fund their *Our Voice Magazine* Christmas party.

"Last year, the *Our Voice* Christmas

party almost didn't happen," says the Beatnik (real name: Mark Kozub, founding father of *The Raving Poets*). "I know *Our Voice* won't buy a ton of turkeys with money made from my CD. I'm just one Edmonton artist trying to make a bit of a difference, really... and I implore other artists to do the same."

For the evening, the Beatnik is enlisting the musical help of Chapman Stick player and singer Dale Ladouceur, another Edmonton artist noted for supporting Bissell Centre initiatives and other social causes.

Ron MacLellan, PR Coordinator for *Our Voice Magazine*, explains how important it is for *Our Voice* vendors to come together at Christmas time.

"Many of the people in the *Our Voice* community have or are currently suffering from the ravages of mental illness, substance abuse, crushing poverty, frightening prejudice, reduced self-esteem," says MacLellan. "Visiting, telling one another stories, commiserating, laughing, breaking bread together... these are the kind of relationships that everybody needs, especially people relegated to selling papers on the street."

"At my best, I'd like to believe I have a gift: to perform poetry that makes people laugh and cry, that yanks at people's heartstrings," says The Beatnik. "Words can heal hurting souls, definitely. But forking over cash to good causes helps too!"

For more information, contact: Thomas Trofimuk, 427-8940 (wk) 914-8620 (cell) Mark Kozub, 490-1414 abeatnik@telusplanet.net

VENDOR REPUBLIC

R REPUBLIC

I despair of the **Republic!**
Such dreariness, such
whining sallow women,
such utter absence of the
amenities, such crass food,
crass manners, crass
landscape!!!... What a horror
it is for a whole nation to be
developing without the
sense of beauty & eating
bananas for breakfast.

EDITH WHARTON



THE FOX'S DEN

E.D.C.C. (Edmonton Downtown Development Corporation) and City Planners have met to work out the new location for the market. The vendors are committed to staying downtown at an outdoor location from the beginning of May until the end of September and then an inside place for the winter months. The search for a new market location is ongoing.

Meanwhile, the City is left holding the bag. Will a new buyer come forward to bail out Mayor Bill Smith from his floundering dream? There are a lot of unanswered questions.

Will the public ever know the answers to what will come of the time, energy and money spent trying to close this deal, which was smelly in the first place?

The vendors that managed to hang in there through thick and thin are a resilient and hardy bunch. Through this upheaval they are anxious for a new and secure location, away from uncertainty and their present location on 97th Street. They feel confident that the market will rebound and prosper in the downtown core. Stay tuned for more!

- Kevin Fox



The Farmer's Market Fiasco

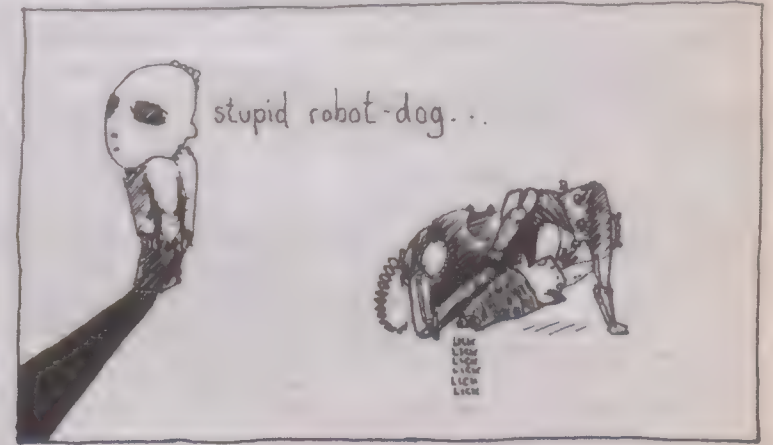
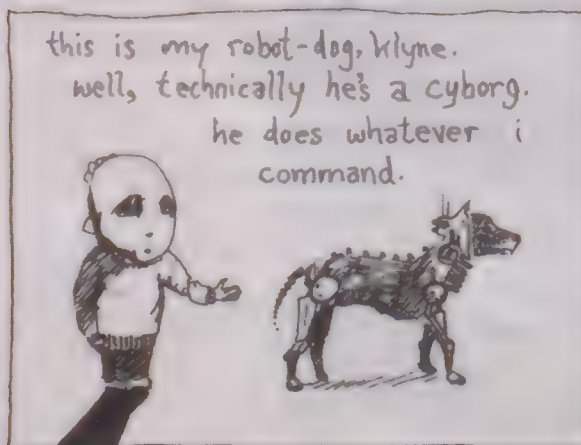
The deal that was on shaky footing, (the sale of the farmer's market) headed by the Barbara Fung Group, finally collapsed under its own weight. The deal was dicey and riddled with missed datelines and no public

showing of architectural drawings. The price was lowered from \$1.8 to \$1.6 million without re-tender. The city put itself in the position of acting as banker. No great surprise that the deal fell through.

Should we laugh or cry??? The city has backed themselves into a corner. After two years of jerking around the vendors and customer base, both dwindled substantially. Customers have dropped off because they think the Farmer's Market is closed, hence the numbers of vendors has also declined.

Jennifer Gilbert, market manager says, "It wasn't a surprise that the deal fell through. We anticipate the building being put back on the market and are continuing our search for a new home. On a positive note, I suppose we now at least have more time." Market vendors,

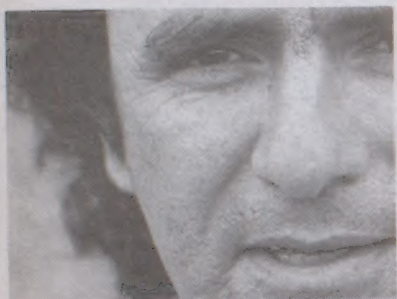
when the bough breaks • eric uhlich



VENDOR REPUBLIC

People's Columnist

Christmas Toy Run



Santa was recently spotted riding on a motorcycle behind a road captain, accompanied by over 2500 bikers, as they all rode out of the northwest entrance of Capilano Mall to help kick off the 20th Annual Edmonton Motorcycle Toy Run for 630 CHED Santas Anonymous. The toy run commenced at 11 a.m. on Sunday September 21, 2003.

The Edmonton Motorcycle Toy Run is a public awareness campaign that's about the spirit of giving, and a reminder that Santas Anonymous will be collecting toys for children less fortunate, who could not normally afford the luxuries of a toy at Christmas.

Jerry Forbes of 630 CHED radio established the Santas Anonymous in 1955. The organization collects donated toys throughout the year for children in need of their support.

Bill Albers was more than happy to be out independently riding for the cause. This year was his 18th year as a participant of the annual ride. He donated a stuffed bear and doll set for children in need. He's a strong advocate of giving and was once on the receiving end himself. He says, "I'd like to pay back the people at Santas Anonymous for the number of gifts that they provided for myself and my children when I was a single parent. This is going back around 15 years or so. I guess the other reason is simply to be a part of what the toy run represents, even though especially this year, I played a small part. I have been involved in all the toy runs, other than the first year, to help make the statement that this needs to be done. It needs to be done for the children of Edmonton, especially today."

Dennis and Debbie Beauchesne, a married couple with children, came out to the ride to show their support. They are both independent riders. The married couple brought a variety of donated toys for children less fortunate, the donated toys included dolls for girls and toy cars for boys. Debbie Beauchesne is employed as a teacher's aid for severely handicapped children.

She essentially recommended that anyone with a motorcycle should come out to next year's ride to show their support for an important cause. She says, "Get out and ride and meet people and show the world that bikers are awesome people and they're a lot of fun. The run in my eyes symbolizes people who care. All walks of rider's care about society and our kids who need us."

Laurie Paetz was working the booth representing the Edmonton Motorcycle Show, that's scheduled to take place on January 16th and 18th at the Northlands Agricom.



Her booth was providing free doughnuts and free Edmonton Motorcycle Show discount coupons, for biker's who generously donated toys and their time for a good cause. Laurie was enthusiastic about the unique event that helps make the difference in the lives of the children in need of a toy. She says, "We represent the Edmonton Motorcycle Show. We're up from Calgary. It's our payback to the motorcycle community, as they support all riders. It's all about the kids and it's great to see such a turnout."

Graham Clark is a firefighter by occupation. He's been fighting fires for 17 years now. He is a member of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club. This organization is only made up of firefighters. The organization was established during the mid-seventies in the State of Massachusetts. The club's purpose is to promote fellowship

"The run in my eyes symbolizes people who care. All walks of rider's care about society and our kids who need us."

with its riders, and also have its members raise revenues for various charities. Graham's chapter, an affiliate of the Red Knights International, loves to support the Burn Treatment Society and other fundraising activities.

Graham estimates he's been a participant of this year's toy run for the last 10 years. He donated a series of little toy firefighters for a number of needy children. He only had one valid reason for donating to the cause. He says, "I've been participating in those events for a number of years. It's always for a good cause."

Tom Richardson is a member of the Edmonton Christian Motorcycle Association. This was his second year as a participant of the annual ride. He brought a hot-wheels racetrack set for some boy in need of a toy. He came to represent Christ in his mission to spread the spirit of giving. He says, "The toy run is benefiting children and that's the number one goal. I'm with

the Edmonton Christian Motorcycle Association. I'm also in a lot of youth ministries in my church and children really strike a chord in my heart. Anything I can do to help, or work with children. It's a plus for me."

Lea Veillon donated some toys to the needy. This was her second year as a participant of this year's ride. She enjoys the giving aspect of what the event represents. She says, "I say go on these toy runs. I mean if you're an avid biker, this is a great time to get out and meet fellow bikers and have a social event. It's very family, where all people bring their kids and your doing something for the community."

Paul Smolik is the owner operator of All Star Sports. His business is a sports collectable shop. His booth was setup in the northwest side of the Capilano parking lot. His reasons for setting up shop were a valid one, in terms of benefiting the many generous supporters of this year's toy run. His booth displayed a variety of stuffed toys and biker novelties, at discount prices. He says, "I want to just have some of these plush toys here. I want to see if anyone wants to pick any of these up for Santas Anonymous or what not. I have them usually selling for \$7.00 to \$8.00 dollars. I put them down for \$5.00 dollars. So if people want to pick them up and help out in that sense."

Chris Davidson is a woman biker. This year was her first time ever as a participant of this year's annual toy run. She came to the ride on her own motorcycle. Chris gave her reasons for riding. She says, "Why not, it's a good day for a ride and it's for the kids."

The 20th Annual Edmonton Motorcycle Toy Run for 630 CHED Santas Anonymous was again a big success. Jan Steenson and the late Pete Steenson, the founders of the Edmonton Motorcycle Toy Run for 630 CHED Santas Anonymous commend all the kind and generous supportive bikers, who have helped make the spirit of giving a reality for children living in poverty, who would not otherwise have the luxuries of a toy at Christmas. She says, "We always try to thank the bikers, because they're the one's that come out and make this a success. We can do all the organizing we like, but if we don't get all the people coming to it this means nothing. So really, the riders are the key to the success of this event."

If you'd like more information in getting involved in next year's annual toy run, contact Jan Steenson on the website at: www.Edmontontoyrun.ca

- John Zapantis

TECHNOLOGY & TOYS

In the end, the fate of children depends on our ability to use technology constructively and carefully. The connection of children and technology is not simply a matter of seat belts, safe toys, safe air, water and food, additive-free baby foods, or improved television programming. These are all important issues, but to stop here is to forget that today's children will soon be adults. Technological decisions made today will determine, perhaps irrevocably, the kind of physical and social world we bequeath them and the kind of people they become.

- Kenneth Keniston

REPUBLIC R

No republic is more real than that of letters, and I am the last in principles, as I am the least in pretensions to any dictatorship in it.

THOMAS JEFFERSON



Soothsayer Sandy

S SOOTHSAYER

Soothsayer. Beware the Ides of March. Caesar. He is a dreamer. Let us leave him. Pass.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



SCORPIO (October 23rd - November 21st)
Don't be paranoid. Speculation about the existence of hidden messages will surely turn some up. You might even be able to generate some yourself if you get really worked up. Then comes the fun of deciphering. Do yourself a favour... don't bother. Let literacy be your liberator, not your jailer.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22nd - Dec. 21st)
It is posited by some that the benefits that are ascribed to striving are attainable only through striving. Don't only sleep and consume your way through life. Do things worth doing, things that are more challenging - and thus more rewarding; things that are harder than just easy.



CAPRICORN (December 22nd - January 19th)
You know that technology should do more than just provide a trickier Internet browser and security for commerce, just as you know that life should be used for more than just surfing the 'Net and trying to get what you can for free. Now's the time to do something with that knowledge.



AQUARIUS (January 20th - February 18th)
If you had grown up the child of an itinerant negotiator who played poker to win, you would likely be experienced in the muttering of maledictions and the lowering of prices through relentless chiselling. In that case this particular entry would be completely irrelevant to you. Afraid to say, as it stands, it's not much more so.



PISCES (February 19th - March 20th)
Like most people, you want to raise good kids. Yet, again, like most people, there's a fearful part of you that regards children as something to lose. If you don't want to lose your kids to technology, you might consider advocating for the responsible use of our brains and our opposable thumbs.



ARIES (March 21st - April 19th)
While you wouldn't want to provide undue encouragement to the Luddites in the neighbourhood, you don't have to be afraid to show your agreement with Max Frisch, who described technology as "the knack of so arranging the world that we need not experience it."

TAURUS (April 20th - May 20th)
It's one thing to flit here and flit there, simultaneously bringing heartache and ecstasy, like an upper-nineties fastball, but you would do well to consider that at the end of your journey lies the rough choice between either a glove or a bat... and you don't get to choose. Your Taurean preference for the familiar over the new makes it doubly difficult to change your surroundings. If you're sincerely wishing for a change-up though, you just might have to think "outside the park".

GEMINI (May 21st - June 20th)
Quiet reflection is paramount if you're to successfully navigate the tricky problems presented this month when nature feels one way and your human nature feels another. Leave the house, or apartment, or room or cardboard box and walk through the river valley - if you live in a box you might be quite near the valley already - and breathe deep of the fresh air fuel required for reconciling such profoundly disparate states.

CANCER (June 21st - July 22nd)
Oh War! The gravity of the current situation is enough to send a chill through America's veins. On the road with their D.U.-spewing battle tanks and their foreign policy nicked from von Clausewitz (that war is only the continuation of politics mixed with other means), they never stopped to think that they might have to ask somebody else to bail them out. Now they see how quickly things can regress from words to WORDS to bombs to being a target. In context of the moon this month, and the resurgent economic and technological strength of China, you gotta think they're holding back the free market reverse privateersmanship and contemplating mere restraint of trade. Something must be done to hold onto their high class in borrowed shoes after all.

LEO (July 23rd - August 22nd)
Like Godzilla on Viagra, your past peccadilloes, indiscretions and moral transgressions keep coming back for more. Now is the time to put that crap to rest but only if you've made atonement. However, since they've yet to invent a Sinometer that will accurately gauge the ferocity of your peccant deviance, it's probably just easier to try and be good right from the outset.

VIRGO (August 23rd - September 22nd)
Arthur C. Clarke said, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Given that some of your mental key words are "scientific, methodical and skeptical", it might seem appropriate Virgo that you are the one to recognize that the wielders of this "magic" are not wizards or shamans, but simply technicians. Help the rest of us to understand that they have no more right to dictate the purpose to which their tools will be put than we do.

LIBRA (September 23rd - October 22nd)
Positioned at this relational crossroads as you are (if you are; be sure to disregard otherwise) you might be casting about for a way to determine the compatibility of a current or potential partner. Try this: Imagine how you would feel if she or he filed Max Webster under "W". If, instead of annoying, you would think it cute, then get (or keep) a little cuteness in your life.



EDMONTON

Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board

Call 496-5959



Call if you are a landlord or a tenant that needs:

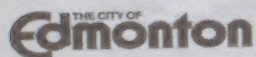
- Advice in residential tenancy matters
- Mediation in a residential tenancy dispute
- Education courses or workshops
- To purchase the Question & Answer Booklet or Forms
- Free Landlord and Tenant fact sheets

Some topics on the information line include:

- General Information
- Laws and Tips
- Security Deposits
- Starting a Tenancy
- Agreements
- Inspection Reports & Security Deposits
- Resolving Disputes
- Notices

Find information fast using
The Landlord and Tenant Information
Line 24 hours a day. Call 496-5959; press
2, then press 1 and
follow the instructions.

City of Edmonton, Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board
Main Floor Chancery Hall
#3 Sir Winston Churchill Square
(Corner of 102A Avenue and 99 Street)
Edmonton, AB T5J 2C3



RBC Dominion Securities

#2300, 10155-102 St.
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2P4
Ph. 944-8851

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EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

For the Inner City

- ▶ Casual Labour
- ▶ Life Management Skills Training
- ▶ Career Counseling
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- ▶ Job Interview Skills
- ▶ Internet Training
- ▶ H2S Training (limited funding available)
- ▶ WHMIS/Standard First Aid Training

All services offered at no cost!

CASUAL LABOUR

"Pay the worker -
NOT the broker"

Minimum hourly rate - \$8.00
Minimum 4 hours per day

Workers available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day
Bookings taken within work hours
Mon-Thurs: 7am-2pm
Fri: 7am-noon

Need someone to help with...

- ▶ Yard Work/Snow Removal
- ▶ Loading/Unloading
- ▶ Decorating - internal/external
- ▶ Cleaning - domestic/industrial
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ General Labour

All services offered at no cost!

BISELL CENTRE

Telephone: 424-4385
Or

Casual Labour program for women at
Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton

Telephone: 421-1175 ext 22
Mon-Fri 7pm-3pm

Performers Wanted!

Family Entertainment Night (Coffee House)

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DOOR PRIZES!!

Tuesday, November 18th

Supper 6 PM
Music at 7 PM

Bissell Centre

10527 - 96 St.
Contact: Earl @ 423-2285 ext. 144

Announcing ...

Just Christmas 2003!

A Global Crafts &
Fair Trade Marketplace
November 21-22 @
The Prince of Wales Armouries
10440 - 108A Avenue

Friday Nov. 21/ 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Saturday Nov. 22/ 9:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Crafts and other worldly goods, live
entertainment and delicious finger
foods & refreshments available!

Just Christmas
(from "justice at Christmas")
is an alternative global marketplace
for quality crafts and other goods.

Market participants are philanthropic
not - for - profit organizations whose
mandate is to foster global awareness
and to support international
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Admission is free - but donations
are encouraged (thanks!)



For more information:
474-6058 / 995-6819
e-mail: leocampos@aol.com



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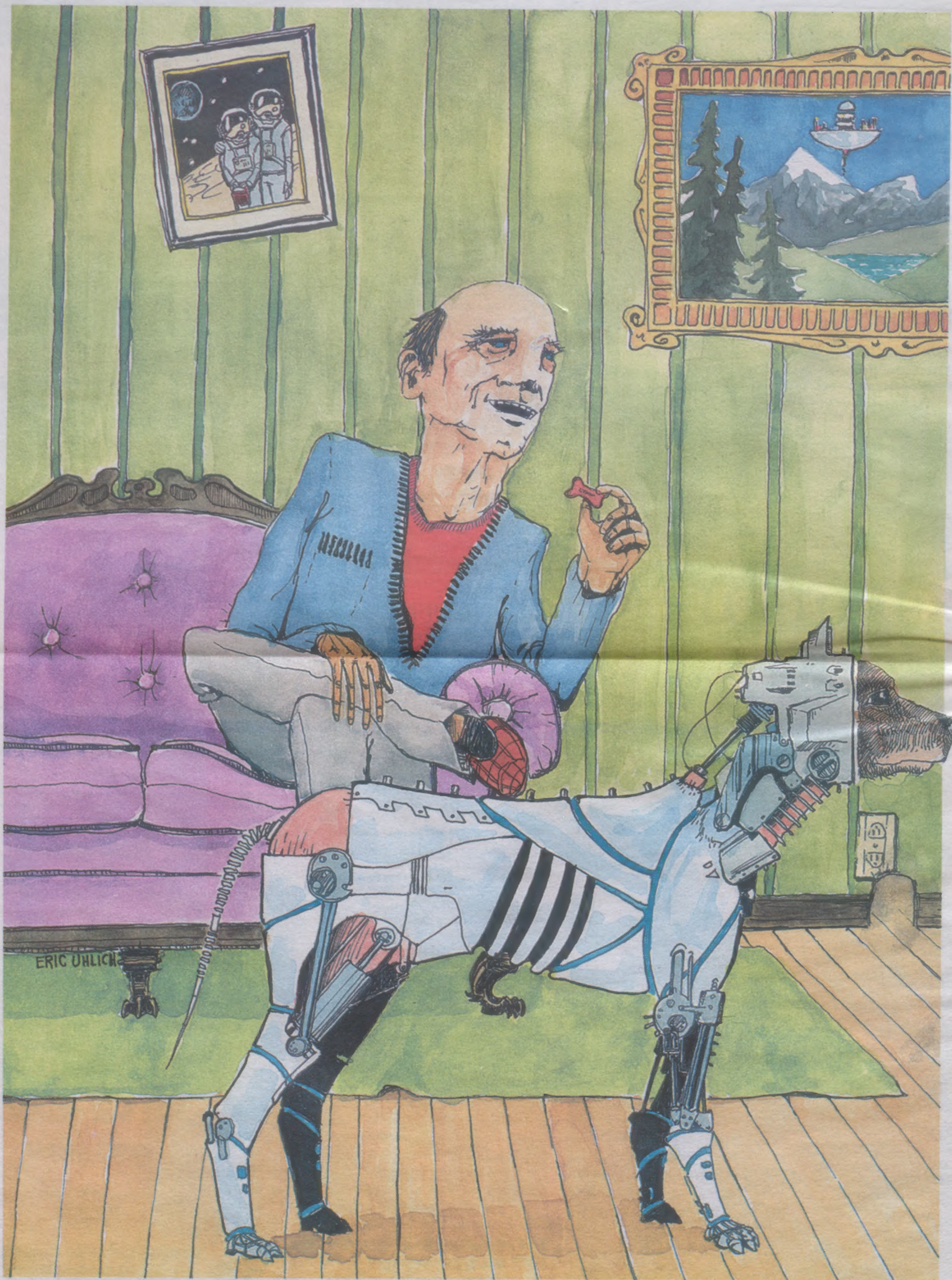
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